

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02238 070748Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05
OES-06 OMB-01 AID-05 AGRE-00 /056 W
-----070752Z 097254 /20

R 070721Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2563
INFO USMISSION GENEVA WQUY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2238

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, SY, LE
SUBJECT: OPIUM CULTIVATION IN BEKAA VALLEY LEBANON

REF: STATE 72836

1. CHARLES SINKINS AND ENTIRE SUPPORT STAFF OF UNDP BEKAA HASHISH PROJECT LEFT AREA AT LEAST THREE MONTHS AGO. UNDP OFFICE HERE ADVISED THAT LEBANESE ASSISTANTS WHO USED TO TRAVEL TO DAMASCUS FREQUENTLY ARE NO LONGER UNDER CONTRACT TO UNDP OR IN CONTACT WITH OFFICE HERE. DEA MAY BE ABLE TO CONTACT SINKINS THROUGH UNIV. OF MINNESOTA AT SOIL SCIENCE FACULTY. WE HAVE NO OTHER ADDRESS FOR HIM. THERESA R. FORTIN, SINKINS ASSISTANT AT UNDP WHO HAS ALSO DEPARTED FOR U.S. MAY BE ABLE SUPPLY MORE CURRENT ADDRESS FOR SINKINS. HER ADDRESS IS: 562 SABATTUS ST., LEWISTON, MAINE. SINKINS MAY IN TURN BE ABLE TO SUPPLY NAMES AND SUGGEST WAYS OF CONTACTING FORMER LEBANESE ASSOCIATES WHO ARE REPORTEDLY STILL IN BEKAA. FORTIN'S ADDRESS WAS TAKEN FROM CONSULAR SECTION REGISTRATION FILES AND PRIVACY ACT PROVISIONS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED.

2. ONLY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 02238 070748Z

TO DEVELOP FROM SYRIAN NARCOTIC SQUAD SOURCES HERE IS THAT CULTIVATION IS TAKING PLACE IN AREA AROUND DEIR AL-AHMAR. ADDRESSES WILL RECOGNIZE NAME OF AREA AS ONE WHICH HAS ALWAYS FIGURED VERY PROMINENTLY IN HASHISH CULTIVATION AND OVER WHICH GOL ANTI-NARCOTIC EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MINIMAL.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: SINKINS REPORTS WERE BASED ON SECOND

OR THIRD HAND REPORTS AND AT THAT TIME THERE WAS GREATER
INSECURITY AND CHAOS IN BEKAA THAN AT PRESENT. WE FEEL
THAT ESTIMATE OF 700 HECTARES IS PROBABLY HIGH AND THAT IF
SUCH CULTIVATION TOOK PLACE, LARGER QUANTITIES OF RAW
OR PROCESSED HEROIN WOULD ALREADY HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED
FROM THIS SOURCE BY ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, OPIUM, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: OPIUM CULTIVATION IN BEKAA VALLEY LEBANON
TAGS: SNAR, SY, LE, (SINKINS, CHARLES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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